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SOURCE

1. In the USSR, as in other countries of the world, all sorts of religious superstitions and predictions continue to exist. The most widely distributed ones which are encountered most frequently in daily life are given below:
 - (a) A black cat crosses the path of a passerby. Some kind of misfortune will happen.
 - (b) A rabbit crosses the path of a passerby. That is not a good omen.
 - (c) After the events listed in points a) and b) above, it is necessary to turn around three times on the same spot and then proceed on your way.
 - (d) The number 13 is an unlucky number.
 - (e) Monday is a bad day. It is not recommended to undertake a long trip on this day as there will be some unpleasantness.
 - (f) The floor should not be swept on the day when someone from the household or circle of close friends departs on a trip. This allegedly would sweep away his spirit.
 - (g) A cricket appears in the house. This means that residents will be evicted or driven out of their house. And therefore residents make every effort to catch or destroy the cricket and stop its chirping.
 - (h) A dog howls near the house. This means that he smells or senses either a fire or a corpse.
 - (i) A person is out of spirits (in a bad mood). Means he stepped on his right foot as he got out of bed. So it is best to step on the left foot first in getting out of bed.
 - (j) It is not good to meet a funeral procession. Same is true of meeting a priest. In such cases it is recommended to take hold of a button on your clothing.
 - (k) In case of nearby lightning and clap of thunder it is necessary to cross oneself and say a prayer, thereby cleansing the soul before the Almighty.
 - (l) On Ivanov's day (a religious holiday) forget-me-nots (wildflower which grows best on sandy soil) are picked, one for each member of the family. They are fastened to the ceiling in an orderly arrangement so that each flower stands for one individual in the family. If any of the flowers do not open up, that is a sign that the individual will die during the year.

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SECRET

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- (m) On Trinity (religious holiday) in the villages a small birch tree is stuck into the ground before the house. This is done so that in case God comes there will be a place for him to sit in the shade.
- (n) In a house where there is a corpse, the mirrors are covered.
- (o) A watch is kept at the coffin of a dead person at night. Allegedly they are protecting the spirit, which on the 40th day will rise to heaven.
- (p) A coffin containing a corpse is always carried feet first.
- (q) An illness in the family or some misfortune means that it is the wrath of God on account of sins which have been committed.
- (r) A cow begins to give less milk. A child grows sickly. Means that it is the work of the evil eye.
- (s) The palm of your hand itches. Means you will receive money.
- (t) Your eyelid itches during the daytime. The left eyelid - means good luck. Right eyelid - means bad luck. When the eyelid itches at night, the left eyelid means bad luck, the right eyelid means good luck.
- (u) When you find a needle, if the sharp end lies away from you, that is good. If the sharp end is toward you, that is bad.
- (v) When you find a horse shoe, if the open end lies toward you, that is good. If the open end lies away from you, that is bad. In general, horseshoes are considered lucky or conducive to good. So people put them in their houses. Are happy to find them.
- (w) When a wood fire is burning in a fireplace, if sparks fly off, it means that a guest will arrive.
- (x) If the cat washes his face with his paw while lying with his back to the door, it means that a stranger will visit the house. Today this could mean that the MVD is about to pay a visit.
- (y) If a mirror is dropped from the hand and is broken, it means some kind of misfortune.
- (z) A broken dish is a sign of good luck. An example of this can be seen in the practice of actually breaking a plate or dish for good luck when a member of the family is going away, as for example a husband or son off to the front. The dish is broken just at the moment of departure.
- (aa) Before a departure of an individual or a group on a long trip, all members of the family and friends present should sit down quietly for a few minutes. Then the traveler leaves immediately. This is for good luck on the trip.
- (bb) A horse is ill-at-ease (disturbed in his stall or in the barn). Means it is the work of the hobgoblins (or house spirits).
- (cc) The end of your nose itches. You must take a look into a glass (take a drink of vodka).
- (dd) A woman crosses the road with empty buckets - this is not good. If with full buckets, that is good. When a woman carrying empty buckets suspended to a shoulder yoke is walking in a direction across yours, she will stop and allow you to proceed first. You will nod to her or say something in thanks for her courtesy. Only a bad-mannered woman would cross your path in front of you while carrying empty buckets. Another superstition is that it is not good for a woman carrying two buckets of water with shoulder yoke to allow two people to drink from the buckets at the same time. This might cause her to have twins.
- (ee) If you sit at the corner of a table, you won't marry for a long time or not at all.
- (ff) It is bad to whistle in the house (a custom).
- (gg) When a spider comes down his web from the ceiling, that is a sign that you will receive some kind of news or a letter.

2. This list contains only a small portion of the superstitions and prophecies. Among the people very many old ceremonies and customs (religious and wedding) have been preserved. To a certain extent the belief in miracles, visions and all kinds of signs still exists. I am not able to describe them since, as a result of my own convictions, during my life in the USSR I was very far removed from the possibility of understanding such nonsense.

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